

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) An end member for use with an implant for fusing bone comprising:

a first portion with a top surface adapted and configured to engage the bone and having a perimeter edge and a first channel extending across at least a portion of the top surface from the perimeter edge for receiving a surgical instrument;

a second portion configured and dimensioned to be inserted into a bore of the implant; and

a shoulder joining the first and second portions and sized to rest on an end edge of the implant when the second portion is inserted in the bore of the implant;

wherein the second portion comprises a plurality of resilient tabs flexing inward upon insertion of the second portion in the implant and flexing back outward to secure the end member to the implant.

2. (Previously Amended) The end member of claim 1, wherein the top surface further comprises a plurality of teeth provided in a two dimensional array with the teeth being spaced apart from one another for interlocking with the bone.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The end member of claim 1 wherein the top surface is annular.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The end member of claim 1 wherein the top surface is oval.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The end member of claim 1 wherein the top surface is a flat planar surface.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The end member of claim 1 wherein the top surface has a second channel for receiving the a surgical instrument.

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15. (Original) The end member of claim 14 wherein the first and second channels run in an anterolateral direction.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Amended) The end member of claim 1 wherein the end member is made of a metal.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The end member of claim 1 wherein the implant is an intervertebral spacer body such that the resilient tabs of the second portion are sized and configured to be inserted into the intervertebral spacer body so that the end edge of the intervertebral spacer body rests against the shoulder of the end member when the second portion is inserted into the intervertebral spacer body.

26. (Previously Presented) The end member of claim 25, wherein the intervertebral spacer body has a first outer cross-sectional dimension and the first portion has a second outer cross-sectional dimension, the first outer cross-sectional dimension and the second outer cross-sectional dimension are substantially identical when the second portion is inserted into the intervertebral spacer body.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The implant of claim 1 wherein the first portion further comprises an inside perimeter edge defining a central opening, the first channel extending from the perimeter edge to the inside perimeter edge for receiving the a surgical instrument and ~~the top surface between the outer perimeter edge and the inside perimeter edge is substantially solid with no through holes.~~

29. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 28, wherein the top surface between the outer perimeter edge and the inner perimeter edge contains a plurality of teeth for providing a mechanical interlock between the top surface of the end member and the surrounding bone.

30. (Withdrawn) The end member of claim 1 wherein the end member has a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis, a dimension of the longitudinal axis being substantially identical to a dimension of the lateral axis, wherein the first channel is aligned substantially parallel with the first of the longitudinal or lateral axes.

31. (Withdrawn) The end member of claim 30 wherein the end member comprises a second channel which is substantially aligned with the second of the longitudinal or lateral axes.

32. (Previously Presented) The end member of claim 1 wherein the end member has a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis, a dimension of the longitudinal axis being substantially identical to a dimension of the lateral axis, wherein the first channel is aligned offset from both the longitudinal and the lateral axes.

33. (Withdrawn) The end member of claim 1 wherein the end member has a major axis and a minor axis, a dimension of the major axis being larger than a corresponding dimension of the minor axis, wherein the first channel is aligned substantially parallel with the major axis.

34. (Withdrawn) The end member of claim 33 wherein the end member comprises a second channel which is aligned substantially parallel with the minor axis.

35. (Previously Presented) The end member of claim 1 wherein the end member has a major axis and a minor axis, a dimension of the major axis being larger than a corresponding dimension of the minor axis, wherein the first channel is aligned offset with the major axis.

36. (Previously Presented) The end member of claim 35 wherein the end member comprises a second channel which is aligned offset with the minor axis.

37. (Withdrawn) The end member of claim 1 wherein the end member has a wedge-shaped.

38. (Withdrawn) The end member of claim 37 wherein the first portion of the end member has a first end and a second end, the thickness of the end member at the first end being larger than the thickness of the end member at the second end.

39. (Previously Presented) The end member of claim 1 wherein the second portion includes four resilient tabs.

40. (Previously Presented) A bone fusion implant comprising:  
an intervertebral spacer body; and  
at least one end member further comprising:

a first portion with a top surface adapted and configured to engage the bone and having a perimeter edge and a first channel extending across at least a portion of the top surface from the perimeter edge for receiving a surgical instrument;

a second portion configured and dimensioned to be inserted into a bore of the intervertebral spacer body, and

a shoulder joining the first and second portions and sized to rest on an end edge of the intervertebral spacer body when the second portion is inserted in the bore of the intervertebral spacer body;

wherein the second portion comprises a plurality of resilient tabs flexing inward upon insertion of the second portion in the bore of the intervertebral spacer body and flexing back outward to secure the end member to the intervertebral spacer body.

41. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 40, wherein the intervertebral spacer body has a first outer cross-sectional dimension and the first portion has a second outer cross-sectional dimension, the first outer cross-sectional dimension and the second outer cross-sectional dimension are substantially identical when the second portion is inserted into the bore of the intervertebral spacer body.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 40 wherein the top surface and the intervertebral spacer body are selected from the group consisting of annular, circular, oval, and oblong.

44. (Currently Amended) The implant of claim 40 wherein the top surface has a second channel for receiving the a surgical instrument.

45. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 44 wherein the first and second channels run in an anterolateral direction.

46. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 40 wherein the end member is made of a metal.

47. (Currently Amended) The implant of claim 40 wherein the first portion further comprises an inside perimeter edge defining a central opening, the first channel extending from the perimeter edge to the inside perimeter edge for receiving the a surgical instrument and the top surface between the outer perimeter edge and the inside perimeter edge is substantially solid with no through holes.

48. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 47 wherein the top surface between the outer perimeter edge and the inner perimeter edge contains a plurality of teeth for providing a mechanical interlock between the top surface of the end member and the surrounding bone.

49. (Withdrawn) The implant of claim 40 wherein the end member has a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis, a dimension of the longitudinal axis being substantially identical to a dimension of the lateral axis, wherein the first channel is aligned substantially parallel with the first of the longitudinal or lateral axes.

50. (Withdrawn) The implant of claim 49 wherein the end member comprises a second channel which is substantially aligned with the second of the longitudinal or lateral axes.

51. (Previously Presented) The end member of claim 40 wherein the end member has a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis, a dimension of the longitudinal axis being substantially identical to a dimension of the lateral axis, wherein the first channel is aligned offset from both the longitudinal and the lateral axes.

52. (Withdrawn) The end member of claim 40 wherein the end member has a major axis and a minor axis, a dimension of the major axis being larger than a corresponding dimension of the minor axis, wherein the first channel is aligned substantially parallel with the major axis.

53. (Withdrawn) The end member of claim 52 wherein the end member comprises a second channel which is aligned substantially parallel with the minor axis.

54. (Previously Presented) The end member of claim 40 wherein the end member has a major axis and a minor axis, a dimension of the major axis being larger than a corresponding dimension of the minor axis, wherein the first channel is aligned offset with the major axis.

55. (Previously Presented) The end member of claim 54 wherein the end member comprises a second channel which is aligned offset with the minor axis.

56. (Withdrawn) The end member of claim 40 wherein the end member has a wedge-shaped.

57. (Withdrawn) The end member of claim 56 wherein the first portion of the end member has a first end and a second end, the thickness of the end member at the first end being larger than the thickness of the end member at the second end.

58. (Previously Presented) The end member of claim 40 wherein the second portions includes four resilient tabs.

59. (Currently Amended) An end member for use with an implant for fusing bone comprising:

a first portion with a top surface adapted and configured to engage the bone and having an outer perimeter edge, an inside perimeter defining a central opening, the first channel extending from the outer perimeter edge to the inside perimeter edge for receiving a surgical instrument and the top surface between the outer perimeter edge and the inside perimeter edge is substantially solid with no through holes;

a second portion configured and dimensioned to be inserted into the implant; and a shoulder joining the first and second portions and sized to rest on an end edge of the implant when the second portion is inserted into the implant;

wherein the second portion comprises four resilient tabs that flex inward upon insertion of the second portion into the implant and flexing back outwards to secure the end member to the implant.

60. (Currently Amended) The end member of claim 59 wherein the top surface has a second channel for receiving the a surgical instrument.

61. (Previously Presented) The end member of claim 59 wherein the implant is an intervertebral spacer body such that the resilient tabs of the second portion are sized and

configured to be inserted into a bore of the intervertebral spacer body so that the end edge of the intervertebral spacer body rests against the shoulder of the end member when the second portion is inserted into the bore of the intervertebral spacer body.

62. (Previously Presented) The end member of claim 61, wherein the intervertebral spacer body has a first outer cross-sectional dimension and the first portion has a second outer cross-sectional dimension, the first outer cross-sectional dimension and the second outer cross-sectional dimension are substantially identical when the second portion is inserted into the intervertebral spacer body.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 59, wherein the top surface between the outer perimeter edge and the inner perimeter edge contains a plurality of teeth for providing a mechanical interlock between the top surface of the end member and the surrounding bone.